



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/591,653	09/05/2006	Hitoshi Ikeya	IKEYA=1	3131
1444 7590 12/17/2009 BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C. 624 NINTH STREET, NW SUITE 300 WASHINGTON, DC 20001-5303				
EXAMINER				
GALLIS, DAVID E				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1625				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
12/17/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/591,653

Applicant(s)

IKEYA ET AL.

Examiner

DAVID E. GALLIS

Art Unit

1625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 October 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/CD)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/2/07 and 7/23/07.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 through 20 are pending. Claims 4 through 8 have been amended. Claims 12 through 17 have been newly added. Applicants' claim to foreign priority from JAPAN 2004-062616 filed March 5, 2004 is acknowledged. Applicants' Response to Restriction Requirement filed October 29, 2009 has been entered and carefully considered.

Election/Restrictions

2. Applicants have elected with traverse Group I of the October 2, 2009 restriction requirement. Applicants argue that Groups I through III carry unity of invention. Applicant's argument is found persuasive. Therefore Claims 10 and 11 have been rejoined for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 through 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Snow et al. (WO 94/13327, June 23, 1994, Cited by Applicants), and in further view of Nogusa et al. (US 5,688,931, November 18, 1997).

5. Claims 1 through 9 and 12 through 17 are drawn to a hyaluronic acid-methotrexate conjugate, a composition containing such and a therapeutic drug containing such, wherein methotrexate is conjugated with a carboxyl group of hyaluronic acid, a

hyaluronic acid derivative, or a salt thereof through a linker containing a peptide chain consisting of 1 to 8 amino acids. Said linker is further limited to contain a C₂₋₂₀ alkylenediamine chain and the hyaluronic acid is 600,000 daltons. Claim 10 is drawn to compounds of formulas (V_a) and (V_b). Claim 11 is drawn to a process for producing the hyaluronic acid-methotrexate conjugate of claim 1.

6. Claims 1 through 17 are obvious over Snow et al. teaching methotrexate analogs comprising peptide linkages, protected amine groups, and conjugated to a polysaccharide system (see page 42, Scheme 4 and page 11, line 33). An intermediate taught by Snow et al. is instant formula (V_b) containing L₁ of formula (X'). Snow et al. also teaches their linkage group to include a 5 carbon alkylene group bridging two amine functionalities. While Snow et al. do not teach hyaluronic acid (a polysaccharide) conjugation specifically, Nogusa et al. teach this obvious peptide-hyaluronic acid conjugate (see columns 24 and 25, EXAMPLES 20 through 22). It would be obvious to one of skill in the art to combine the teachings of Snow et al. and Nogusa et al.. Further, Snow et al. teaches the general procedure for preparation of a methotrexate-peptide system (see page 63 example 5) and Nogusa et al teach the preparation of hyaluronic acid-peptide systems (see EXAMPLES 20 through 22). Combining these syntheses to produce a system with the potential synergy of hyaluronic acid and methotrexate would be an obvious effort to one of skill in the art with a high probability of success.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. Gallis whose telephone number is 571-272-9068. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur 8:30-7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janet Andres can be reached on 571-272-1600. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

David E. Gallis
Patent Examiner

/ Bernard Dentz/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1625